

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01531 01 OF 02 041219Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IGA-01 SR-02 ORM-01

AGR-10 NEA-09 DPW-01 /112 W
----- 009535

R 040950Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2749

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 1531

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION ISSUES PRESS RELEASE

REF: STATE 279139, VIENTIANE 9132, VIENTIANE A-071,
JULY 10, 1975

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF FEBRUARY 26 PRESS RELEASE
ISSUED BY WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - RELATED FUND FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION IN INDOCHINA:

2. QUOTE "PEACE IS OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE," STATED THE
PARTICIPANTS IN A FORUM SPONSORED BY THE WORLD COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES' FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION IN
INDOCHINA, HELD IN VIENTIANE, LAOS, FEBRUARY 22-25.
DELEGATES WHO HAD VISITED IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM
PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF THE FORUM REPORTED THAT GROUPS
WITH WHICH THEY MET, INSTEAD OF SOLICITING MATERIAL AID,
HAD ENTREATED THEM TO SERVE AS PEACE EMISSARIES. WHILE
THE FORUM WAS DESIGNED TO EFFECT AN INTERCHANGE OF VIEWS,
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01531 01 OF 02 041219Z

OPINIONS AND EXPERIENCES, RATHER THAN TO PRODUCE RECOM-

MENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS, THE THREE WORKING GROUPS SUBMITTED VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO THE BOARD OF THE FUND WITH RESPECT TO THE PEACE ISSUE, PARTICULARLY ALL URGING THAT PRESSURES BE BROUGHT TO BEAR UPON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHERS PARTIES CONCERNED TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THE PARIS ACCORDS OF 1973.

3. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE FORUM'S CONCERN FOR PEACE, THE DELEGATES PROPOSED AND DEBATED A WIDE SPECTRUM OF RELATED QUESTIONS: IS RECONCILIATION POSSIBLE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE NATIONS OF INDOCHINA? WHY DO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ACCENT THE GIVING OF AID AT THE EXPENSE OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION? ARE THE RECONCILIATION CONCEPTS OF BUDDHISM AND OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH POLITICALLY APPLICABLE? IS THE LAOTIAN COALITION EXPERIENCE A VIABLE MODEL FOR VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA? WHAT ARE THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF AIDING WAR VICTIMS WHEN THE EFFECT OF SUCH ASSISTANCE IS TO PROLONG THE KILLING? EVEN VETERAN CONFERENCE GOERS ADMITTED HAVING BEEN ENLIGHTENED BY THE INSIGHTS OF THIRTY DELEGATES FROM TWENTY COUNTRIES INCLUDING THESE OF INDOCHINA.

4. THE FUND WAS CONCEIVED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MEETING IN 1972 AT UTRECHT. IT WAS CREATED TO BREAK THROUGH THE TRADITIONAL LIMITED PATTERNS BY REACHING OUT EQUALLY TO ALL THE PARTIES IN THE INDOCHINA CONFLICT. THE FUND GREW OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL IN SUCH AREAS AS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERCHURCH AID. THUS THE INITIAL ALLOCATIONS MADE BY THE FUND INCLUDED US\$2,000,000 EACH TO NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM (BOTH TO RVN, AND THE PRG.)

5. THE FORUM PREPARATION INCLUDED THIRTEEN STUDY PAPERS, ALL BUT THREE OF WHICH CAME FROM THE INDOCHINA AREA. THEY TREATED THE BUDDHIST AND THE CHRISTIAN APPROACHES TO RECONCILIATION, THE MAJOR PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS OF EACH OF THE COUNTRIES IN INDOCHINA, AND THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND RECON-

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 VIENTI 01531 01 OF 02 041219Z

CILIATION.

6. THE 1973 PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN A PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF STUDY. THESE HAD BEEN DRAWN UPON BY SEVERAL OF THE WRITERS OF THE STUDY DOCUMENTS, AND WERE MADE THE FOCUS OF CONCERN BY ONE OF THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE FORUM.

7. THE TEAMS REPORTED HAVING BEEN APPEALED TO IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALL FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN INDOCHINA HAD COME UNDER ATTACK IN THE DRVN, RVN, AND LAOS. THE FAILURE OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRESS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENTS AND THE UNITED STATES' USE OF MASSIVE MILITARY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT EVASION OF THE ACCORDS REQUIREMENTS REPORTEDLY WERE THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES TO EFFECTING SOLUTIONS IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

8. THE FOUR TEAM REPORTS FROM DRVN, RVN, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS WERE STUDIED BY THE FORUM. DELEGATES HAD MET NEO LAO HAK SAT AND VIENTIANE PARTY OFFICIALS OF THE PROVISIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT OF LAOS AND WITH PRINCES SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND SOUPHANOUVONG IN LUANG PRABANG; WITH THE VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH IN HANOI AND WITH PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS IN NAM DINH; WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC IN PHNOM PENH; AND WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND SEVERAL SENATORS IN SAIGON. OTHER CONTACTS INCLUDING ARCHBISHOPS AND WORKERS, STATE PLANNERS AND PEASANTS, GENERALS AND DISPLACED

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01531 02 OF 02 041236Z

51

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PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IGA-01 SR-02 ORM-01

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 1531

PERSONS. BY CAR, BY HELICOPTER, BY PLANE AND ON FOOT
THE DELEGATES HAD OBSERVED WAR DAMAGED AREAS, RECON-
STRUCTION AND SELF-HELP PROJECTS, "REFUGEE" VILLAGES,
AND AGRICULTURAL EXPERIEMENTS. THESE FIRST-HAND CONTACTS
WITH POLICY MAKERS AND ORDINARY PEOPLE LENT CREDIBILITY
TO SUBSEQUENT OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS MADE BY THE
DELEGATES, AND WERE EVIDENCES OF CONCERN TO THE PERSONS
AND VARIOUS NATIONAL GROUPS THE DELEGATES HAD ENCOUNTERED.

9. THE NECESSITY TO END THE INDOCHINA WARS WAS THE
RECURRING THEME OF THE FORUM. IT WAS REGARDED BY MANY
OF THE DELEGATES AS THE PRECONDITION FOR EFFECTIVE
RECONCILIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION. THE DELEGATES
GENERALLY WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE WORLD COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES THROUGH ITS MEMBER BODIES SHOULD ACCENT
THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION NO LESS
THAN RECONSTRUCTION.

9. THE FORUM WAS OPENED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FUND,
YAP THIAM HIEN OF INDONESIA. C. I. ITTY OF INDIA,
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01531 02 OF 02 041236Z

STAFF CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL'S UNIT ON JUSTICE
AND SERVICE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHURCHES' PARTICI-
PATION IN DEVELOPMENT, CHAIRED THE SESSIONS. AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE FORUM, THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF LAOS
RECEIVED THE DELEGATES AT A FELLOWSHIP DINNER. END
QUOTE.

10. FORUM'S ACTIVITIES IN VIENTIANE
WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.
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